

Thank you Mr. Mayor. I look forward to 2025 being a year that continues the forward progress set in place by the previous council.

It is however important to address actions that have occurred since December that are troubling to the citizens of Selma and the continued smooth operation of our council.

To that end, I would like the following items entered into the record and my full comments to also be reflected in the minutes.

First, City Clerk, I would like the following documents entered into the record....

1. Dec 12, 2024 - Special meeting agenda and preservation of the recording of the meeting

2. Dec 17, 2024 - Letter from District Attorney advising actions of Dec 12, 2024 special meeting installing new council members was defective making city attorney appointment void.

3. Dec 17, 2024 - Private attorney Neal Costanzo response to District Attorney.

4. Jan 2, 2025 – Letter from private attorney Neal Costanzo to City Manager Fernando Santillan.

5. Jan 6, 2025 – Response to private attorney Neal Costanzo communication of Jan 2, 2025.

6. Jan 17, 2024- Correspondence from City Manager Fernando Santillan to Selma City Council with process to correct deficiencies of defective December Action.

City Clerk, if you do not have these documents they will be provided. Also, the City of Selma must not be billed for any actions taken by Private Attorney Neal Costanzo until he is legally appointed to the position. And for the record, I will be reviewing the details of Mr. Costanzo's billings on a monthly basis on the Dias.

Now, Mr. Mayor and Council I would like to address my concerns related to Mayor Robertsons unauthorized actions of Dec 12, and 19 th .

1. Dec 12, 2024 – Special meeting. Since there was not a quorum, no official actions could be taken over city attorney objections, you ignored legal counsel and proceeded to use Fresno County Supervisor Nathan Magsig to swear in new council members. This was not a legal action and was void as outlined by the District Attorney.

You then proceeded to a closed session meeting with two council members and two private citizens and appointed Neal Costanzo as the City Attorney. As you now know, this action was and is void.

2. Dec 19, 2024 – Mr Mayor, you called for another Special Closed session meeting to discuss performance of the City Attorney. As you now know, this meeting was also defective as it only had two council members. What is most troubling is that you allowed a private attorney to participate and act as the city attorney which he was not.

The actions of these two meetings are troubling to the citizens of Selma. But tonight, we will correct your previous actions but will also put you on notice that all future council actions will be above board and in the best interest of Selma.

Finally, as you prepare to hire Neal Costanzo for the third time in the City of Selma, I must also read this into the record.

1. Mr. Costanzo has previously been released by the City of Selma.

2. As you know, he was recently released by the City of Parlier after his attempts for over a year to stop that council from terminating his contract.

3. While in Selma, Mr. Costanzo

A. Assisted Mayor Robertson in firing a previous city manager which resulted in six figure settlement. The taxpayers footed the bill.

B. In the City of Parlier, Mr. Costanzo guided a court action to fire the former police chief. He lost the case and the Parlier tax payers are paying \$1,000,000.

C. We can't forget that City Attorney Neal Costanzo guided Mayor Robertson in hiring a former Fowler City Manager charged with embezzlement of city funds. As we all know, this city manager was arrested while on the job in Selma.

D. The Second Chance Animal Shelter started in 2014. Mayor Robertson was involved in this organization for many years as its Chairman of the Board. The City Selma served as the major funder of this shelter as Mayor Robertson served as the mayor and Chairman of Board. The mayor further brought a council action making the Second Chance Animal Shelter the exclusive provider for the City of Selma during his time as City Attorney in Selma, Mr. Costanzo never dealt with the perceived real conflict of Mayor Robertson.

E. As we all know, Mr. Costanzo as a private attorney, represents the Second Chance Animal Shelter and a local business in litigation against the City of Selma. In the chaos created by the Mayor in December, Mr. Costanzo, with no legal authority, demanded that our outgoing city attorney provide him city files on these two cases. Being ethical, this case information was not provided. You have to ask the question, who was Mr. Costanzo representing? We understand that based on comments made by member Ocegüera, he has asked Mr. Costanzo to drop the city case. City residents may want to ask, what is it the mayor doesn't want city residents to know?

In closing, my goal is to continue moving this city forward, but I do ask that this council fully vet Mr. Costanzo and determine if hiring him for the third time is in the best interest of the residents of Selma. If he is hired, know that I will be monitoring his changes to this city and his actions.